



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2014

**Members Present:**

John Hanieski, Anne Ganakas, Toni Griffin, Robert Wilson, Richard Watkins, and Erik Hansen

**Members Absent:**

Larry Leatherwood, Justin Himebaugh, and Bob Thelen

**Staff Members Present:**

Ed Reed

**1. Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order by Chair John Hanieski at 4:02 p.m.

**2. Set/Adjust Agenda:**

Motion made by Erik Hansen to accept the agenda as written. Robert Wilson supported. All agreed. Motion carried.

**3. Approve Minutes – March 5, 2014:**

Robert Wilson motioned the minutes be accepted as submitted. Toni Griffin supported. All agreed. Motion carried.

**4. Staff Update on Banners:**

Ed Reed provided an update, which included the following items:

- Banners have been installed between Waverly Road and Elmwood.
- Screen print on canvas
- Type of banners purchased were slightly more expensive, and lasts approximately 5 years without fading
- Banners are in two different color (green and blue with white lettering)
- Reported that a discussion was held with Richard and Jen about continuing the banners down Saginaw to Canal, and maybe in Sharp Park, etc.
- Approximately \$8,900 total bill for the banners that have been installed at the Library, Township Hall, Fire Station, and along Saginaw from Waverly Road to Elmwood included \$5,000 from the EDC, with the Township paying the balance
- A total of 50 banners were hung

A discussion followed this report with regard to issues along the stretch from Elmwood to Canal, which included street light poles versus utility poles, and areas with no poles at all to hang banners on.

Richard indicated that the Township would like to hang an additional 50 banners, and asked the EDC to contribute the same amount as for the first 50 banners. He also indicated that the Township is looking into options.

Erik asked Richard and Ed to provide these options to the EDC before they make any decision with regard to contribution to the additional banners. Richard and Ed to research these options and provide information at the next EDC meeting.

## **5. Monument Sign Discussion:**

Ed Reed reported that the Township has won the LEAP Art Award, and provided his thoughts that it would be a great time to combine the LEAP Art with the full digital display monument sign, which would run between \$20 – 30,000.00. He then stated that the Township would like to have a monument sign and would like the EDC's to participate in this project.

Richard stated that he feels that the Township needs a monument sign, to set the tone for the Township, which he also feels should be located next to the Township Hall at the corner of Saginaw & Canal.

Ed stated that the Township's Planning & Zoning regulations require the Art piece be set back 50 feet from the property line. This requirement positions the Art piece away from the road. The sign would be located closer to the road, as it doesn't have to meet these same restrictions.

Anne stated that this is moving quick and fast, as the Art piece has a deadline for installation, so suggested a motion be made today.

Richard suggested the EDC and Township split 50/50.

Erik stated that the EDC has a limited amount of resources, with no stream of income coming in. He also stated that he isn't sure that the sign should not be 100% Township's responsibility.

Anne stated that there has been a spirit from the beginning that the EDC was going to do something, but not sure if it was 50/50.

A discussion followed on the amount the EDC might be willing to contribute, and how the Art piece would tie in with the monument sign. A motion was made to authorize 50% of the monument up to \$10,000, which was made and seconded, with five Yes votes, and one No vote. Motion carried.

## **6. Staff Updates and Information:**

Ed apologized for Denise Peek not being able to make it to the meeting, and stated that there have been no loans processed with the Micro Enterprise Loan fund dollars. He also indicated that she feels bad. She lost one of her staff members, has some health issues, and has not been able to

commit the time she would like on this, but is committed to working more in the future. Ed then shared the fact that we are not seeing many home based businesses in the township.

Erik suggested putting something on the Township website to inform people about the Micro Enterprise Loan program, which all agreed was a great idea.

Ed then reported the following:

1. There have not been as many investment projects this year
2. Site search activity has been brisk
3. Industrial activity has also been brisk (Believes the Township will see two, if not three, industrial projects within the next year)
4. No noticeable closures, but the Township will be losing one business (unable to report who at this time)
5. Site plan has been received for the buildings on the corner of Waverly and Saginaw where Fruits and Leafs used to be.
6. Delta Township's Zoning Ordinance is being reviewed by a consultant at this time. They will be looking at parking and signage during this review, which could help attract businesses to the area.

**7. Member Comments:**

Anne congratulated Richard on his upcoming plans to retire.

Toni also congratulated Richard and made a motion for the EDC to make a resolution of appreciation for Richard's service to the community, with the chair of the EDC to draft and sign the resolution of appreciation. Anne Ganakas supported this motion. All agreed with one exception (Richard). Motion carried.

A discussion on Richard's achievements during his tenure followed the motion. They also talked about the national search for his replacement.

**8. Other Business:**

Robert Wilson mentioned that his wife is a Massage Therapist and will be opening a small business in Delta Township.

**9. Set Next Meeting Date (September 3, 2014):**

**10. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.